Herefordſhire ORCHARDS,

A

PATTERN

FOR ALL

ENGLAND.

Written in an Epiſtolary ADDRESS to

SAMUEL HARTLIB, Eſq;

By *I. Beale*

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

SIR,

Our industrious endeavours for the benefit of all Men, and particularly for the good of this Nation, hath well deserved the grateful acknowledgement of all good Men, and of my self in special; for that in my rural retirement I have received some Profit, and very much innocent and refreshing delights in the perusal of those Treatises, which are by your diligent hand communicated to the Publick.

My Education was amongst Scholars in Academies, where I spent many Years in conversing with variety of Books only. A little before our Wars began, I spent two Summers in travelling towards the South, with purpose to learn to know Men and foreign manners. Since my return, I have been constantly imploy'd in a weighty Office, by which I am not disengaged from the care of our Publick Welfare in the Peace and Prosperity of this Nation; but obliged to be the more sollicitous and tender in preserving it, and promoting it. Where-

fore, taking notice that this County is reputed the *Orchard* of *England*, and (in the generality of good Husbandry) excelleth many other places; I offer it (as my duty) to give you ſome plain and unpoliſhed account of our *Agriculture* in *Herefordſhire*; which I do the more willingly undertake, for that I do not yet know of any other addreſs is made unto you from this Country. Here I obſerve the wiſeſt and beſt of our Gentry to be very careful in ſetting forward ſuch kind of Husbandry, as beſt agrees with the nature of the Soil where he inhabiteth. From the greateſt Perſons to the Pooreſt Cottager, all Habitations are encompaſſed with Orchards and Gardens; and in moſt Places our Hedges are inriched with Rows of Fruit-Trees, Pears, or Apples, Gennet-Moyles, or Crab Trees. Of theſe, the Pears make a weak Drink fit for our *Hindes*, and is generally refuſed by our Gentry, as breeding Wind in the Stomack; yet this Drink (till the Heat of Summer hath caught it) is moſt pleaſing to the female Palate, having a reliſh of weak Wine mixed with Sugar. If mingled with ſome harſh kind of Apples, it makes a happy Mixture; and our obſervant Houſe-keepers know how to mix them to the beſt advantage. Some Pears are apt to incline the drink to be roapy, and they are known by giving a Wheyiſh Colour to the Liquor. I know a good Husband that cuts down and deſtroys ſuch Pear-Trees from his Ground, calling them the worſt of Weeds. For others are ſo nice as to refuſe the Drink, and Women love it beſt, as ſweeteſt, till it be roapy.

Moſt

Moſt other kinds of Perry are of a more waterish Colour, than Apple-Cyder, and more luſhious. The white Horſe-Pear yields a juice ſomewhat near to the Quality of Cyder; and the Neighbourhood of *Bosbury* is famous for a peculiar Perry, which hath many of the Maſculine Qualities of Cyder. It is as quick, ſtrong, and heady, high-coloured; and retaineth a good vigour two or three Summers, yea in great Veſſels and good Cellars many Years, before it declineth. The Fruit is ſo hard and coarſe, that a Man cannot endure to bite a Morſel of it, and a Pig will refrain it. This *Bosbury* Pear is there called the *Bareland* Pear; and as the Liquor approacheth to Apple-Cyder in colour, ſtrength, and excelleth in durance; ſo the bloom cometh forth of a damask Roſe Colour, like Apples, not like other Pears. Our Gennet Moyles are commonly found in Hedges, or in our worſt Soil, moſt commonly in *Irchinfield*, or towards *Wales*, where the Land is ſomewhat dry and ſhallow. This Fruit is nice, and apt to be diſcouraged by blaſts, and we do ordinarily expect a failing of them every other Year, eſpecially in dry Soil; and the Reaſon is apparent and neceſſary. But this Fruit makes the beſt Cyder in my judgment, and ſuch as I do prefer before the much commended Red-ſtreak'd For this Gennet Moyle, if it be ſuffer'd to ripen upon the Tree, not to be mellow but to be yellowiſh and fragrant, and then to be hoarded in Heaps under Trees, a Fortnight or three Weeks before you grind them; it is (at a diſtance) the moſt fra-

grant of all Cyder-Fruit, and gives the Liquor a moſt delicate Perfume. So, for Tarts and Pyes, it is much commended. The Crab is commonly ground for Verjuice, and ſometimes hoarded till near *December*, and then mingled with Cyder, or waſhings of Cyder, to make a Mordicant Cyder, which doth well pleaſe our Day-Labourers; and would ſurely well agree with a *French* Peaſant's Palate. And, for a freſh Wonder, I aſſure you, that we have lately found out, that one of our moſt delicate kinds of Cyder is made of a kind of a Crab, called a *Bromsbery* Crab, thus hoarded; it being much like a Stomach Wine, of a very pleaſing ſharpneſs. This Experiment is not yet known to many of our Country-Men, it being reſerved to few as a novel Myſtery. I have ſometimes try'd the Cyder of Pippins only, well ripen'd, not green Windfals, nor over-ripen'd, and ſomewhat hoarded; and I find it to be a very pleaſant drink, and do conceive it to be the moſt wholſome, and moſt reſtorative of all ſorts of Cyder.

I need not tell you how all our Villages, and generally all our Highways (all our Vales being thick ſet with Rows of Villages) are in the Spring-time ſweeten'd, and beautify'd with the bloomed Trees, which continue their changeable Varieties of Ornament, till (in the end of Autumn) they fill our Garners with pleaſant Fruit, and our Cellars with rich and winy Liquors. Few Cottagers, yea very few of our wealthieſt Yeomen, do taſte any other Drink in the Family, except at ſome ſpecial Feſtivals,

twice

twice or thrice in the Year, and that for Variety, rather than with choice.

Orchards being the Pride of our Countrey, and the Scene of my preſent diſcourſe, I will offer unto you two Obſervations upon that Argument, as properly directive to them that can affect the Pleaſure or Profit, which muſt needs be, in many reſpects, very much: As, for that they do not only ſweeten, but alſo purify the ambient Air, (which I conceive to conduce very much to the conſtant Health and long Lives, for which our County hath been always famous) and for that they fence our Habitations and Walks from the ſtroke of Winds and Storms in the Winter, and affords us ſhelter and ſhade in the Heat of Summer; and (if I may acknowledge grateful Trifles) for that they harbour a conſtant Aviary of Sweet Singers, which are here retained without the charge or violence of the *Italian* Wiers.

My firſt Obſervation is this; I conceive that if other Countrys would ſubmit to the ſame Patience and Induſtry, as is uſual amongſt us, they might partake of a great meaſure (at leaſt) of the ſame Bleſſings. As wee ſee in our Borderers of *Shropſhire*, *Worceſterſhire*, and *Gloceſterſhire*, and alſo in *Somerſetſhire*; and much more in *Kent* and *Eſſex*, &c. My reaſon I take from the wonderful difference of Soils where we abound with rich Orchards. About *Bromyard*, a cold Air, and a ſhallow barren Soil, yet ſtore of Orchards of divers kinds of ſpicey and ſavoury Apples. About *Roſſe* and *Webley*, and towards the *Hay*, a ſhallow, hot, ſandy or

ſtony Rye-Land, and expos'd to a changeable Air from the diſguſts of the Black Mountain; yet here, and all over *Irchinfield*, and alſo about *Lemſter*, both towards *Keinton*, and towards *Fayremile*, (which make a third difference of ſhallow and ſtarving Land) in all theſe barren Provinces, as good ſtore of undeceiving Orchards, as in the richeſt Vale in the County, even by *Frome* Banks. Only as I fore-noted, where the dryeſt Fruit-Trees are planted in a very hot, ſhallow, and dry Soil, there we muſt be content with a full and certain Bleſſing every ſecond Year. This being alſo allowed, that ſome Soil and ſome Air is more agreeable for ſome kind of Fruit, than for other; as for example, *Worceſterſhire* is more proper for Pears and Cherries, than *Herefordſhire*, and *Herefordſhire* more proper for Apples. The reaſon of the difference may in part appear by this following Illuſtration. Where the Turf is very ſhallow, the rough ſtarvy Ground (which in this Country we wrongfully call *Marle*) hinders the tender Root of the Apple-Tree from deſcending deep enough for due Nouriſhment, and fit ſhelter. There (is in the Ground which we eſteem the moſt barren) the Root of the Pear-Tree, having a more piercing vigour, breaks his way through this coarſe *Marle*, as it will alſo cleave through ſome Veins of Rocks and Stones; and under this ſtarvy Ground, it finds a more congenial and richer Nouriſhment; as appears by the ſtore of Fruit, fair, and juicy, and alſo by the rind of the Tree, ſmooth, bright-coloured, and free from Moſs,

Moſs. This we alſo note, that in a deep Soil, that is moſt kind for Apples, if the Root of a Pear Tree deſcends deep into a ſoft clay Ground, the Tree ſpends all his Strength in growing downwards, and becomes leſs ſpacious, and leſs beautiful in the Head, and leſs fruitful. And where ſome Pears find great Difference of Soil, whether grafted or planted by the Stock, there it differeth ſometimes in bulk, and oft times in other Qualities very much. Which ſeemeth to me to explain, why there is ſuch different kinds of Pears in every Country: their Shape and their Nature, and therefore alſo their Names being changed ſo often, and ſo eaſily.

Alſo I have frequently noted, that the richeſt Cyder, and the beſt taſted Apples for the Table, do grow in the Soil that is leſs deep and leſs commended for other uſes, as in a high Ground, or dry Land. And you ſhall find the better taſted Fruit to be more wretched or wrinckled, or ſpotted with Warts, Moles, or Freckles, or of a more Ruſſet or yellow Colour. The other Apple that comes from the richer and lower Ground, is more pallid, more plump, but more wateriſh and inſipid. I conclude this Obſervation with this Direction, That ſince no kind of Soil ſhould wholly diſcourage us, and yet much regard muſt be had of fitting the Fruit to the Soil, therefore we muſt employ our firſt care in the Plantation of a Nurſery, where our Experiences may daily increaſe, and the Plants alſo be educated, prepared and fitted for the neighbouring Soil.

For

For what *Columella* ſaith of Vines, I may as truely ſay of Fruit-Trees; *Quod ex longinquo petitur, parum familiaritur noſtro ſolo venit, propter quod difficilius convaleſcit alienum exterâ regionis. Optimum eſt ergo eodem agro quo vitem diſpoſiturus es, vel certe vicino, facere ſeminarium; idque multum refert loci natura, &c.* de arbor. cap. 1.

My ſecond Obſervation is intended to encourage the Plantation of a Nurſery, by directing the ſure way how to fit the Soil with the greateſt variety of Fruits, and alſo to obtain the ſpeedieſt reward, together with a Yearly delight in Novelties, and a like growth in Experiences.

But becauſe I muſt now imbark into ſome paradoxes, which will not eaſily obtain belief, and leaſt of all amongſt our own Countrymen here in *Herefordſhire*, for ſome reaſons which hereafter will occur, I will make my entrance with a plain and true Story.

Some Years ago I read a ſmall Treatiſe of Orchards and Gardens written by *William Lawſone*, a North-Country Man, Printed 1626. In it I found many aſſertions which ſeemed to me ſo ſtrange, ſo contrary to our general Opinion, ſo diſcordant from our daily Practice, and ſo incredible, that I could not forbear my ſmiles. I related the particulars to all our beſt Artiſts. Every Man confirmed me, that the Treatiſe was wholly ridiculous, and in no reſpect worthy to be examined and weighed; yet I thought I found many ſigns of Honeſty and Integrity in the Man, a ſound, clear, natural wit, and all things atteſted and affirm'd upon his own

Experiences,

riences. This raiſed my Wonder the more. Amongſt many particulars ſome were as followeth.

1. That the beſt way to plant an Orchard were to turn the Ground with a Spade in *February*, and to ſet from *February* till *May*, every Month, ſome Kernels of the beſt and ſoundeſt Apples or Pears *&c.* finger deep, at a Foot diſtance: And by removing the reſt (as time and occaſion ſhould adviſe) to leave the likelieſt Plant to reſide in the natural place unremoved. *Ch.* 7. *pag.* 17.

2. That the Kernels of every Apple would bring forth Apples of the like kind. *Chap.* 7. *pag.* 18.

3. That by the Leaves of each ſpiring Plant you might diſtinguiſh each kind of Fruit, whether delicate or harſh, *&c. Ch.* 7. *pag.* 18.

5. That Apples either grafted, or any time removed, could never be ſound, durable or otherwiſe perfect.

1. The firſt of theſe Aſſertions was rejected, as dilatory, and retarding our hopes and reward for half an Age.

2. The ſecond was contradicted by daily experience, which voucheth that many Apple-Kernels will degenerate to Crabs, at leaſt if taken from Apples planted on a Crab Stock: And that Crab-Kernels are better for a Plantation, than any Apple-Kernels.

3. The third note was wholly unknown and unobſerved in our Country.

4. The fourth, like an unreaſonable Phanſy.

The

5. The fifth, as refuted in all our Orchards every where.

Notwithſtanding theſe Oppoſitions, I ſtill retained my good Opinion of the Man's Honeſty and Experience. Therefore I reſolved to make exact trial with patience. I digg'd Holes of three Foot breadth in a parcel of ordinary Clay-Ground. [Note that the whole Piece of Clay-Ground was turned ſomewhat deep with the Spade before, that the ſettlings might gather root as well in that vulgar Ground, as alſo in the finer Mold] I enquired ſlips of ſeveral Trees that grew without Graffing, and bore ſeveral Fruits of their natural kind: Theſe I placed each kind round about the Verges of the ſeveral Holes. By diligent enquiry the firſt Spring I found fourteen ſeveral ſorts of theſe natural Apples, the Fruit much differing in taſte, ſhape, and colour; ſome only Green and ſo wriſh, ſome red-ſtreaked, ſome party-coloured, and very pleaſant, ſome Table-Fruit in Summer, ſome Winter Fruit, ſome Cyder Fruit. Of all theſe the *Kentiſh* Codling was by odds the worſt: Not many better than the *French* Cornel. Having placed theſe Slips in the Border of the Hole at a Foot diſtance, I filled up the Hole with a fine kind of Garden Mould, carryed thither in Barrows. This I raiſed not in Tumps, for I foreſaw the inconvenience, that it would be a Harbour for Ants and Piſmires. I kept it alſo at an equal level, that the Rain might not lodge there, and corrupt the young Roots. In the midſt of this fine Mold, in the moſt temperate Weather, I did

Monthly

Monthly, from Autumn to the next Spring, ſet Kernels of the fineſt ſort of Apples, with delineating in a Sciograph the ſeveral kinds in ſeveral Places. I now find that the Kernels of Apples grafted on Crab-Stocks prove not all Crabs, nor (as I gueſs) altogether of the kind of that Apple, whence the Kernel was taken.

2dly, That, as the Mold is finer where they firſt grow, ſo the Fruit ſeemeth more civil, and in coarſe Ground they degenerate towards the Crab. Our Neighbours, for a Nurſery, ſow the droſs or muſt (as we call it) of Apples ground in a Cyder-Mill. But I have noted the faireſt Kernels to be bruiſed in the Mill, the remainder being ſmall, and ſown in coarſe Land, become a kind of Crabs.

And that the Kernels of natural Apples do very much propend to the kind of which they are deſcended. This was neglected, and therefore unknown to our Neighbours, who had no need of this Curioſity, as being ſo addicted to graffing, that they take not notice of any natural Apple, except the Gennet Moyle, the Kydoddin, the Sweeting, and the *French* Cornel; which are found in all Places. 'Tis ſure that Kernels of the ſame Apples, in a far differing Soil, do produce a different Apple; but (as I ſaid) ſtill with ſome inclination to the original, if it be the Kernel of an ungrafted Apple. And this may advertiſe the beſt Seaſon of deſigning variety; namely, in application of choice Compoſt to the very Kernel, as *Gab. Plat.* preſcribeth *Exp.* 14. *pag.* 210. of the Additions to the excellent Legacy. All other

Stories

Stories, of powring liquors into the bark, of bulk of the Tree, are effete and idle Fancies, for nine days wonder.

3dly, I find the truth, and that much more might be added to *Lawſons* Rules, of diſtinguiſhing the hopefulneſs of the Fruit by the firſt Leaves of the yearling Plant. For a ſhort and dark green Leaf prognoſticateth a crabbed Fruit. With a larger Leaf and thick, but alſo dark green, I have found a good Winter-Apple, but the Stock hardy to endure a ſtiff Clay-Ground. A fady willowiſh broad Leaf noteth a flat, inſipid Apple, as the *Kentiſh* Codling, which holds out well againſt Blaſts. A paler green, as the Poppinjay, or *Barbary Leaf*, eſpecially if the Leaf be limber alſo, noteth a delicate Fruit: And the broader the Leaf, the fairer that Fruit. A wrinkled Leaf, neither very dark, nor very light, proves red ſtreak'd Crab Stocks have reddiſh tops. More particulars will occur by ordinary obſervation.

4thly, For the incredible durance of Apple-Trees, to a thouſand Years, I have upon much experience and many Reaſons much abated the preſumption of my cenſure. 'Tis certainly true (as *Gabriel Plat* in the foreſaid place noteth) that if a Man aim at his preſent profit, then graffing is his way: But if he aim at the profit of his Poſterity, then it is beſt not to graft at all. This I add, that moſt ungraffed Apples are apt by the overweight of their Fruit to lean towards the Ground: And I have ſeen many of them quell'd quite to the Ground; where they do renew their ſtrength, and get up again into

into many Trunks, in a continued order, anſwerable to the old Fable of the Giant *Antæus*. Every aſpiring Trunk of ſome of theſe natural Apples, is much more laſting than any grafted Fruit-Tree: And many very aged People have aſſured me, that they have diſcerned no difference either of their growth or decay, in their whole Age from their Childhood. I will tell you upon my Credit the Wonders of one Tree of this kind, now growing in *Ocle Pitchard*: The Fruit is not very ſappy, nor pleaſant; the Leaf dark green, and ſtiff. My known Friend (for tryal) made of that Tree five of our large Hogſheads, conſiſting of ſixty four Statute Gallons of Cyder, without the mixture of any Water. It ordinarily yieldeth four Hogſheads, and ſeldom or (as they aſſure me that dwell there) never faileth of three. Yet few of our Countrymen have heard of it, or take notice of it. This Tree hath had very many upriſings, ſo that I conceive it hath been many hundreds of Years making this Progreſs. My dear Alliance, Mr. *Thomas Taylor*, was Owner of it many Years, and dwelt always in that Pariſh. He is now paſt Eighty Years old, of firm ſtrength and freſh memory; yet he affirmeth, that he never could diſcern any change in the Tree. And his Wife for many Years tried to plant the Branches, but was utterly diſcouraged by their ſlow Motion. I have for three Years tried ſome Branches, which ſeem only to keep a faint Life, with very little Progreſs. The Ground on which this great Tree grows, is Paſture, and ſeems not

in

in the age of Man to have been broken up, or relieved with Compoſt, or freſh Mold; which may ſhew, that it is a very hardy Plant. So much upon the adventure of mine own Credit, which may be examined by a Thouſand Witneſſes, to confirm the Credit, or rather gueſs and propoſal of Mr. *Lawſon*.

5thly, For duration of the Fruit-Tree, much care muſt be had in the removal, which ſhould be ſoon after the Leaf is fallen, when the Autumnal Rains have ſoftned the Earth at the Roots, that the Roots be not bruiſed or wounded in the removal: And then the Tree ſhould keep the ſame poſition towards the Heavens; the Roots laid alſo in the ſame Poſture, the ſmaller Fibres, or bearded Roots rather cut at the Ends than crumpled up; and the Earth in which the Stock is laid, ſomewhat of the ſame kind, but bettered, and mellowed, not with undigeſted Muck, but with fine Mold, and ſhovelings of the Fold. If the Roots are cut or bruiſed, to the ſame proportion the Branches muſt be lopped. In a grafted Plant every Bow ſhould be lopped, at the very Tops, in Apples and Pears; not in Cherries and Plums. In a natural Plant, the Bowes ſhould not at all be lopped, but ſome taken off cloſe to the Trunk; that the Root at firſt replantation be not engaged to maintain too many Suckers. And this muſt be done with ſuch diſcretion, that the Top-Branches be not too cloſe together; for the natural Plant is apt to grow ſpiry, and thereby fails of fruitfulneſs. Therefore let the reſerved Branches be divided at a convenient

convenient roundneſs. The Branches that are cut off, may be ſet, and will grow, but ſlowly. If the Top prove ſpirey, or the Fruit unkind, then the due Remedy muſt be in graffing.

Neither is graffing to be uſed only as a Remedy. For it doth moſt certainly improve the kind of the Fruit: Inſomuch that a Graft of the ſame Fruit doth meliorate the Fruit, as is lately much obſerved by our *Welſh* Neighbours, who do graffe the Gennet-Moyle upon the ſame Stock, and thereby obtain a larger Apple, more juicy, and better for all uſes: And ſome triplicate their Graffings (for a curioſity) upon the ſame account.

And it is noted amongſt us, that a Pearmain or any other pleaſant Fruit, either for Cyder, or for the Table, is much ſweeter, if gratted upon the Stock of a Gennet-Moyle, or Kydoddin, than if grafted on a Crab-Stock; though much leſs laſting upon the Stock of the Gennet-Moyle: The Gennet Moyle being alſo leſs laſting, eſpecialy amongſt us, where they are generally planted of large ſettlings, which muſt needs wound them in their very beginnings, and therefore hinder their duration.

Alſo graffing doth much precipitate, or at leaſt expedite the Reward, eſpecially if the Graffe be taken from a Branch that hath ſome Years conſtantly born ſound Fruit plentifully. Truſt not to one Year's trial. *Poteſt enim vel anni proventu, vel aliis de cauſis, etiam naturaliter infœcunda ſemel exuberare: Sed ubi plurimis velut emeritisa non rum ſtipendiis fides ſurculo conſtitit, nihil dubitandum eſt de fœcunditate: nec tamen ultra*

ultrà quadriennium talis extenditur inquiſitio, ſaith *Columella* in a like caſe; *lib.* 3. *c.* 6.

1. Thus we ſee how to haſten the Reward both by graffing, and in the choice of the Graffe.

2. And how to ſweeten the Fruit and better it, both by the choice of a pleaſing Stock, and alſo of a kind Graffe.

3. And how to multiply variety in the diverſity of Compoſt, eſpecially at the firſt plantation of the Kernel; and I add, with frequent application of pleaſant Infuſions and Liquids, as in which Anniſs Seeds, Fennel, Roſemary, or other agreeable Aromaticks have been ſteeped: Yet beware of giving too much Juice to a young Plant; for that may drown it, or make it leſs guſtful: And I never ſaw an Orchard prove, where the Ground was wetted with a Water-Gall, or where the Moiſture did for ſome time lye there, and could not be drained away. Yet near a running Sink of ſoiled Water, I have ſeen the approaching Trees never fail of their Fruit.

4. And hence we ſee how to plant an Orchard that may probably remain to the World's end. And in this point I have inſinuated ſome part of my Paradoxes, by the way of a Story, and in pretence of defending another againſt the Opinion and common practice of mine own Countrymen. Mr. *Lawſon's* Book I have not now at hand, neither can I record his Judgement verbally, but I think I have ſtuck cloſe to his Senſe.

He

He addeth that the Fruit of the natural Plant doth grow better and pleasanter by time, as better at Thirty Years Growth than at Twenty Years Growth. This I know not. See *Chap.* 7. *pag* 18, 19.

Also he requireth much more distance of the Trees than we observe as Sixty Foot at least. Our common Orchards are at Twenty Foot distance; our best Orchards at Thirty at least, by alternative Rows *per quincuncem.* In large Crofts of Arable, reserved for constant Tillage, which is a necessary help to Fruit-Trees, our best Husbands graft high, and prefer *Lawson*'s utmost distance, even Sixty Yards, that the Teames may not annoy the Trees; and then the Trees bear a full load o Fruit, and spread to the natural Perfection. This I add, that if you would have the Trees grow tall, and shadow more in Summer, and keep off Winds better in Winter, and the Fruit the sweeter, then you should plant the closer together, yet never nearer than Twenty Foot.

To conclude my parodoxes; He that is provided of a Nursery, need not be very nicely provident for the longevity of his Trees. A small Parcel of Ground will furnish store for all his Grounds, and for all his Neighbourhood, to play away upon Graffings and novel Experiments. And to encourage this Nursery, I now sum up all with my last paradox, that for these four last Years, whereof two were very dry Summers, I laid the fruitful sprays of natural Apple-Plants in the Ground, some very small, not two Foot above Ground, all thereabout; and from the first Summer to this present Spring, they never failed to bear as thick as

Traces of Onions. But it is better for the Plant, if you pull off the young Apples ſoon after they are knitted, the firſt Year at leaſt. Some I laid alſo of four Yards length under the Ground, the ſprays lying ſlope above Ground: Theſe grow and bear incredibly. Others I ſlope, and pare away the bordering Turf, that the reflected Sun may give me the early benefit of a dwarf Orchard; and theſe, againſt Midſummer, are as big as a Lady's Fiſt. I preſent them to ſtore of Witneſſes. If I dwelt near *Cheapſide*, I ſhould make my new planted Nurſery as rich as an Orchard. All natural Apples are not of this precocity: The more durable (as I ſaid before) are much more ſullen. Some require a knot for the Root, others not: All three the better for it. To ſome a ſmall ſlice of the Bark is as good. Before *December*, whilſt the ſpray grows on the Tree, by the bluntneſs of the Bud you may diſcover what Branch will bear Fruit the next Summer immediately following, if you cut off the Branch, and ſet it before the Buds be ſprouted too far forward, (as you may in *February*, or the beginning of *March*) This (with ſome) will paſs as a Propheſy. A ſore blaſt or *May*-Froſts may deceive you. Of theſe natural Apples there are not paſt ſix or ſeven Kinds diſtinguiſhed by proper Names amongſt us. I conceive they can never be diſtinguiſhed, for that every individual always aſſumes a peculiar Nature from the infinite variety of Compoſt. In this Nurſery, 'tis the ſame pains, and no charge, to try the Seeds of *Firrs*, *Pines*, *Cyprus*, *Pitch*, *&c.* which prove better for replantation than in Hot-beds.

Of

Of the Art of graffing either with the Ciens, Bud, or Leaf, I ſhall ſay nothing, becauſe every Village amongſt us yieldeth ſtore of Artiſts: And many Books ſhew the Rules; but in theſe things an Artiſt can teach more in a Day, than a Book in a Month.

One reaſon why Fruit do ſo abound in this Country, is, for that no Man hath of late Years built him a Houſe, but with ſpecial regard to the proximity of ſome Ground fit for an Orchard, which ſhould be of ſome depth, as is commonly towards the foot of a deſcending Ground, and frequently with a proclivity towards the South; and the Land not too friable or hollow, but ſomewhat tough, binding, and tenacious, leaſt the Winds root up the Stocks. And many times Servants when they betake to Marriage, ſeek out an Acre or two of Ground, which they find fit for Orchards; for this they give a Fine, or double value for Years or Lives; and thereon they builda Cottage, and plant an Orchard, which is all the Wealth they have for themſelves, and their Poſterity.

For Gardens, we have little encouragement to deſign more than is for the neceſſary uſe of our own Families, except our River *Wye* may be made navigable for tranſportation. And by defect of tranſportation, our Store of Cyder is become a Snare to many, who turn God's Bleſſings into wantonneſs and drunkenneſs. The credit of Cyder being of few late Years much advanced in the eſtimation of our beſt Gentry, who have ſought out the right Method of ripening and hoarding the choiceſt Fruits, and of finding the right Seaſon of drawing it, and ſome alſo

of bottling it. But I am confident that much more may be added to the Perfection of it when they ſhall alſo apply to it the due ſubtilties of the myſterious Art of Fermentation.

I found it much amended, by putting pure Cyder upon the freſh Lees of a Butt of Sack, newly drawn.

In Vines our Gentry have lately contended in a profitable ambition to excel each other: So that the white Muſcadel is vulgar, the purple and black Grape frequent, the Parſly Grape and Frontiniack in many hands.

Wall-Nuts belong to our Highway ſides, and are fitteſt for dry and ſtony Grounds. I find them for the dryeſt Ground of the Nurſery a never failing Companion. In *Columella* we may find many excellent Rules how to aſcertain and haſten their Growth, and to mend their quality.

The large Cheſnut being ſuch a maſculine food for luſty Ruſticks, and ſo much uſed at the beſt Tables in *France*, and ſo ſavoury in the condiment of our ſtrongeſt Cyder with ſalt, I much blame our Countrymen, that we have no more uſe of a Food that would ſoon become cheap, common and laſting.

All theſe Nuts and Filberts do accelerate growth, (as I have proved) by the rules of *Columella: In aqua mulſa, nec nimius dulci macerato, ita jucundioris ſaporis fructum, cum adoleverit, præbebit, & interim melius & celerius frondebit, lib.* 5. *cap.* 10. and again, *de arb.* 22. I cannot tell whether it ſhould not be read, *nec nimis dulci*; but I tryed it in Milk, and alſo in ſtale Urine ſteep'd in Sheeps-Dung, with good ſucceſs. He adds for an Improvement, *Et in medulla*

medulla ſirula ſine putamine nucem Græcam vel avellanam abſcondito, & ita adobruito. A worthy Perſon tryed the Kernels of Cherry-ſtones and Plum-ſtones, having firſt broken and caſt away the Shells, and ſetting them in Summer time, as ſoon as they were ripe; and he aſſureth that they got a Years advantage in celerity.

I do much wonder that ſuch a ſingular honeſt Man as *Gabriel Plat* ſhould write, that it is found by experience, that a Cheſnut in ten or twelve Years will grow into a fair Tree, able to be the Maſter-poſt of a fair Building. And the like of the Wallnut, *Exp.* 13. *pag.* 269 *Addit.* to the *Legacy.*

I am at the like wonder at honeſt Cap. *Blithes* precedent of ſmall quickſet Oaks, that at eleven Years growth made ſparrs and ſmall Building-Timber, *Chap.* 25. *pag* 158. *Edit.* 1652.

Our Elm is of ſpeedieſt growth, all Timber, always ſhredded to be the talleſt of *Engliſh* Trees; and found in Rows on our Highways, and at every Cottager's Door, except they be compell'd to give place to Fruit-Trees.

In many Journeys through *Shropſhire*, I have ſcarce ſeen two Elms of the right kind. The cruſt of the Earth there is too ſhallow. But the Root of the Oaks cleaves through the harder Earth, and ſurely finds a Marley ſubſtance for his plentiful ſuſtenance to the full depth of his Stature,

quod quantum vertice ad auras
Æthereas, tantum radice ad Tartara tendit,
Georg. 2. verſ. 191.

All our Hills have ſometimes born Oaks or few failed, and I conceive moſt are very apt for it. But of late the Iron-Mills have devoured our Glory, and defloured our Groves.

We are generally noted to excel in all kinds of Husbandry; our Ploughs are light, but we liſten after further Directions which come to us through your hands. The Rye of *Clehanger* and of ſome parts of *Irchinfield* is as good as the Muncorne or Miſcellane of many other Countries; and our Wheat is upon the Ground far richer than I ſaw any in the fair Vale of *Eſome* in *Worceſterſhire* and *Warwickſhire*, as in my Travels, I ſometimes examin'd it in the Company of other more skilful Husbandmen.

For Paſtures we add Improvements daily, and as a Stranger paſſeth by our Habitations, by our Fences, Orchards, Paſtures, Arable, he may diſtinguiſh a well-ordered Houſekeeper and a Freeholder, from an over-wracked Tenant, and an Unthrift.

This is the Country where *Rowland Vaughan* began his Water-works; and I can name you a great number of admirable Contrivers for the publick good.

The Lord *Scudamore* may well begin to us; a rare Example, for the well-ordering of all his Family, a great preſerver of Woods againſt the Day of *England's* need, maintaining laudable hoſpitality regularly bounded with due ſobriety, and always keeping able Servants to promote the beſt expediences of all kinds of Agriculture. And Sr. *H. L.* hath heartily proſecuted the ſame Encouragements. Our learned Mr. *B. H.* drives on the ſame Deſign, as far as the glances of a moſt ſedulous Employment will

will permit. Mr. *R.* of *L.* is excellently apt, and constantly diligent in the pursuit as well of Delicacies, as Necessaries. Mr. *S.* of *W.* hath in few Years raised an under Tenement, from 8 l. yearly, and so rented, to be well worth 60 l. yearly, and so rented, or thereabouts. He never fails in any point of good Husbandry. Mr. *F.* of *B.* hath raised his poor Pastures from the value of 2 s. 6 d. to be better worth than 20 s. yearly. *C. M.* hath metamorphosed his Wilderness to be like the Orchards of *Alcinus*; herein also a hearty Patriot. I must cease to name Men, since in every Village there is some excellent Republican.

With one sad Note I must now conclude this discourse. I wish this sore Proverb, *Bona terra, mala gens*, may not belong to us. The most High hath filled us with his Blessings, but we fail so much in returning due Thanks, that we many times turn his Blessings into heavy Curses, and make his liberal Gifts the prevailing cause of our hasty ruin. And whereas the rural life should in all reason be the most humble, and tame, and innocent; yet daily experience sheweth, that where any Trade of Manufacture is driven on, there the Word of God bears a Price: Where Trade thrives not, there the Word of God is at the best but as a pleasant Song: If sometimes they hear it, yet seldom they obey it. And all Doors and Highways are oppressed with idle and sturdy Vagabonds: And it is more easy for an honest Justiciary to do the work of *Hercules* in cleansing the *Augean* Stable, than to remedy such a customary and prevailing Evil. Our fresh Expectation is, that some worthy Patriot will

break through the Difficulties of an obſtructive People, and force open a way for Trade and Commerce. Let our Prayers and Importunities preſs on all true-hearted Patriots thus to advance the Publick. For this Adventure is, without diſpute, ſure of a Reward in Heaven, and not only free from the envy of Men, but alſo always acknowledged to deſerve everlaſting Monuments of Glory. And thus alſo in the perſon of another (as under a fit Vail of Modeſty) I briefly hint unto you, what eſteem we do truly owe unto your Labours. I pray the Lord to remember your diligence in the great Day of his appearance in Glory.

May the 3d. 1656.

Your hearty Well-wſher, and obliged Servant in the Lord, I. B.

SIR,

HAving employed one Day upon a long Letter to you concerning Orchards and the Culture of *Herefordſhire*, and the Meſſenger being not yet gone, I ſhall now add ſomewhat, or at leaſt ſumm up the reſult of my former Diſcourſe.

The Ground for an Orchard ſhould rather incline towards the South than towards the North: Yet no neceſſity of niceneſs in that point. They prove well towards the North. So rather towards the riſing Sun, than towards the Weſt. Yet the Weſt Wind is the beſt, and the Weſtern Sun beſt ripening. And the Blaſts commonly come from the full South, and about Noon: Wherefore we pray with the Pſalmiſt

miſt, to be delivered from the evil that flieth at Noontide.

Yet a diligent obſerver may find that the hurtful Winds are apt to gather into Channels upon the ſurface of the Earth, as the Streams of Water do: And a Man may find by his Eye and Reaſon, and ſee it confirmed by anniverſary experience, that at a Mile's diſtance one point of the Heavens is far more agreeable, or hurtful than another, either by the conduct of Hills and Vales in the Neighbourhood, or at a diſtance, or by Vapours ariſing from Lakes, Rivers, or Mooriſh Grounds, which by Froſts are turned into Blaſts For we have confirmed it into a Proverb, that dry Froſts do not blaſt but moiſt Froſts and Froſts following after Rain do; and dampy Grounds make Froſts that would be dry in other Places, become moiſt in the Neighbourhood. Alſo ſometimes in a very bottom the Air is penn'd ſo cloſe, and the Sun's heat ſo multiplyed by Reflections, that it is apt, to gather the Southern Blaſts (which, as I ſaid, are the more frequent, and more hurtful to the nicer Fruit, and to Hops) as in a Furnace or Oven.

If the Cruſt, or richer Surface of the Earth be near a Foot deep, it is fully enough: And if the Cruſt of the Earth be deeper, yet I have ſeldom ſeen any of our Stocks ſet more than a Foot deep, except they be great Stocks, which ſhould keep their former depth.

If the Ground be equable, that is, in any proclivity relating towards a level, then it is pity to Stockit with natural Plants. The more expedite way were in *October* to ſettle Crab-Stocks at thirty Foot diſtance in the forementioned beſt order, *per quincuncem*: And after three Years, the

the next following Spring, ſend for an Artiſt to graft them with the beſt Fruit.

The Crab-Stocks ſhould not be above the bigneſs of a Man's Handwriſt: If bigger, 'tis leſs apt to cloſe with the Graft, and then the Rain finds a Hole, to the danger of the Stock. Our uſual Cuſtom was, upon the plain Stock to ſet two or three Grafts, which (for variety) might be different, without any hazard or damage. Of late many do ſlope the Stock for one only Graft, conceiving this the more certain way to unite the Stock, and graff fully and ſpeedily. In a Nurſery, if the Stocks be as ſmall as Twigs, the ſureſt and ſpeedieſt way is by the Joint-Graft, where no leſs than eight ſides are engaged, and this is an Improvement of the laſt Stamp.

We cannot truſt to any Artiſt, but have need to uſe a true and careful Friend in the choice of Grafts from the fruitful Branch of a ſound and fruitful Tree. And an Error in this Point (beſides the miſtake of the Fruit) may prorogue the reward for five Years or more, which is a ſad loſs. *Collumella*'s former Note is worthy to be remembred in this point.

If the Ground be very unequal, 'tis a great Charge, and a very groſs Vanity to level it. For there is a kind of Beauty, and a ſure Refreſhment in a Wilderneſs; at leaſt it is a good Soil if appendant to a pleaſant Garden. And it may be better, more kind, and more fruitful, moſt certainly more fit for varitety, and for all change of Seaſons by inequality, than by equality. And this is the Ground that is fitteſt for the natural Apple, who is then wronged, maimed, or wounded, when he is hindered from his

his natural coarſe, or forced into order. Yet I ſhould not plant him in ſuch Bottoms, where the Water cannot paſs away: The deſcent were beſt for his ſituation.

The Apples we commend for Grafts, are the *Stockin Apple*, the *Jellyflower Apple*, the *Well-Apple*, the *Eliot*, the *Queen-Crab*, the *Quince-Apple*, the *Winter-Quining*, the *Harvey*, the *William*, the *Leonard*, the *John-Apple*, the *Snouting*, not forgetting the *Pearmain*, and *Pippin*, and *Leather-Coat*. Theſe, and many more that are nameleſs, are for the Table.

For Cyder the Streak'd Muſt is moſt commended; but 'tis but a kind of Shrub or Hedge-Plant, not apt to grow to a large Tree, and ſpending Strength ſo thick and ſo conſtantly, that the Planter commonly ſurvives to ſee the decay of his own Work. There is a white Muſt, much commended for ſtrong luſty Cyder, the Tree long laſting. Another white Muſt hath this Fault; they abide not on the Tree, to be gathered together, but are always dropping one after another.

I need not note ſuch Cautions as may afford choice for all Seaſons, early and late, and in the firſt ſtocking of the Ground to plant Pears and Apples alternately, at leaſt if we have no certainty of the nature of the Ground; and there is a Beauty as well as Profit in variety: and Pears grow long before they take up much room, and for the moſt part begin to be in Perfection, when the grafted Apple is decay'd. Or a Winter Apple, which laſts longer, and grows ſlower, may be alternative to a Cyder-Apple.

The

The Clay-Land binds the Tree faster from Wind-Strokes, the Sandy-Land hasteneth the growth more. By Rows of Elms every Orchard and Village is generally fenced from the North and North-East Wind; yet no necessity.

For Hops, we make haste to be the chief Hop-Masters in *England*; our Country having store of Coppice-Woods, and many provident Men within these three Years planting abundance of the fairest and largest sort of Hops. All about *Bromyard* in a base Soil there is great store. At first we adventured only upon deep, low, rich and moorish Grounds; now we climb up the Hills with wonderful success. We find also that the Bottoms are apt to gather Heat as an Oven, (as is abovesaid) and that begets Honey-Dews, when the more open Air escapes it.

Our Poets new and old, and all best Judgments do highly commend the pleasure of a Grove, Horat. 12. *Epist.* 2. *Scriptorum chorus omnis amat Nemus, & fugit urbes.* We do commonly devise a shadowy Walk from our Gardens through our Orchards (which is the richest, sweetest, and most embellish'd Grove) into our Coppice Woods or Timber Woods. Thus we approach the resemblance of Paradice, which God with his own perfect Hand had appropriated for the delight of his innocent Masterpiece. If a Gap lyes in the way between our Orchard and Coppice we fill up the vacancy with the artificial help of a Hop-Yard, where a busy Weed gives the shape of a Wood. This must content us, till we can gain the Credit of a Vineyard, which as yet hangs between hope and fear. The late dry Summers did swell us with hopes; the latter fickle Spring and moist

moiſt Autumn did blaſt, or drown our expectation.

Some ſow Acorns, and Aſh-keys, and other Seeds for Woods, in wilde and hilly Grounds. Other count it much better to plant Quick-ſets, which make more haſte, and may be more reducible to the beauty of order.

Before we adventure for Woods upon untryed Ground, 'tis not amiſs to make uſe of Sr. *Hugh Plat*'s Augur. My ſelf having bought a ſmall Tenement, thought it worth the while to ſee the nature of mine own Land, for nine Foot depth, which was ſoon done. By that I found where Sand, where Stone, and where Marl of the beſt ſort were neareſt at hands: I found the reaſon why one piece of Arable was more cold and moiſt, and leſs fruitful than another.

We have a belief, that the moſt barren ſurface hath the richeſt entrails, not only of metallick Minerals, but alſo of Stone, yea of Marl, or ſome other rich material. And this is certain, that which we eſteem the richeſt Land, and buy it at the deareſt rate by far, that is in many reſpects the pooreſt Land: As for example, our richeſt Land is eſteemed to be on *Frome* Banks, the Paſture very rich, the Arable a ſtiff Clay bearing the beſt Wheat; yet this Clay is very unkind for Gardens, it does devour much Compoſt. It is a ſlow Ground for Orchards; the Arable is much inclinable to the Mildews: If we have need to turn it into Paſtures, though we have great advantages of Land-floods, or other fat Waters, and the Ground ſeem very likely for Paſture, yet it is almoſt as good to give it away, as to go about to turn it into Paſture

ſture. I have ſeen that in Twenty Years it gathers not a Turf, or Sward. Yea lately, the want of Winter-floods two Years together left the Paſtures as bare, hard, ſtarvy, chapt and cheany, as the baſeſt Land upon the *Welſh* Mountains. And if the Arable be there once out of heart, or miſs of one courſe of plowing, it is coſtly work to recover it.

On the contrary, in many Places of the hot Rye-Land, where the Paſtures have a coarſe Sea-green Blade, or ſhort and poor, and where the Fields refuſe Wheat, Peaſe, and Fitches, there Sheep thrive beſt, and their Dung ſuddenly recovers the Arable, which is light and eaſy for a weak Team: In three or four Years 'tis at the beſt for ſuch Paſture as it proves. The Paſtures quickly improved by fatting Sheep there, that may lye upon it Night and Day. The Land quick for Orchards, or any ſort of Trees, as well the talleſt Elms, as the Aſh; eaſily fitted for Gardens, for Hemp, Flax, Turneps, Parſnips, *&c.* Hence you may judge which of theſe were more worthy to be called the richer Land: If the rich Water-floods did not give the rich Paſtures the advantage on one ſide. And hence you may ſee what prevalency there is in the advantage of Paſture only.

I have ſeldom ſeen Paſtures forced by Compoſt in this Country, as I have ſeen it elſewhere. Only in the Winter we feed our Cattel on the higher Paſtures, and in the hazzard of a rot, ſome follow the Directions of *Gabriel Plats*, in putting out their Sheep all Nights; which hath proved a Safeguard to the Sheep, and a great help to the Paſture. Other helps of Paſture we do omit, every rill of Water is carefully conducted

conducted to the beſt uſe. If it runs from a fat Stream, Land-flood, or Lime-ſtone, we find benefit in it, if withal we let it paſs over and away, before it exchangeth it's fatneſs in to a cold hunger, which falls out in a very few Days. Some Water we find ſo hungry, that we dare not receive it, but at Seaſons of neceſſity. Lime we have ſeldom tryed upon Paſture. Aſhes we find excellent to beget the white and purple Honeyſuckle, if ſifted on the Ground in *February*, till it hath half candyed the Ground, like a Hoar-Froſt. Our beſt *Engliſh* Hay-ſeed is by experience found to be our more natural Friend.

Our Graſiers, which are Butchers, do find this fault in the excellent Paſtures ſtored with Gilt-cups, which is a kind of Crowfoot, that it makes the fat of their Beef turn yellow, as if it were of an old Beef.

The Honey-ſuckle and Graſs we ſort for Cows, the ſowrer for the Breed of young Cattel, the harder and ſtronger for labouring Oxen; and if it be rough, and little better than Sheep-Paſture, 'tis the better for Horſes, to mend the Breed of them for the Saddle. In an hyperbolical exceſs, for the fuller illuſtration, I may ſay, that a Nag fed upon high Grounds and dry Grounds is, for travel, as much beyond a Nag I bred in the lower Meadows, as a Lion exceedeth a Cow in activity. For a bag to Market, or a Cart, you may breed them in in the lower Meadows, and you ſhall ſee them big-limb'd, well-truſs'd, and apt to tire themſelves with their own bulk and weight. The other that are bred on dry Ground, are Airy and Sinewy, full of Spirits and Vigour, in

ſhape

ſhape like the *Barbe*: They rid Ground, and gather Courage and delight in their own ſpeed. Thus Colts well choſen, and Sheep well ordered, may be a rich Help to repair the diſtreſſes of dry Paſture.

For Sheep we are skill'd beyond the Rules of *Gab. Plats*, our Wooll being the fineſt of *England*, and our Sheep ſmall, and not bearing above 16 Ounces ordinarily, (yet I have ſeen our faireſt Weathers bear thirty Ounces of Wooll) being ſmall and nice, they are generally houſed by Night, Summer and Winter. And are therefore liable to two kinds of rot: The one is only of the Liver at firſt, and if it be diſcerned, 'tis cured by the Butcher's Knife, without much loſs to the Owner; the other prevails over the whole Body of the Sheep, and makes the Fleſh fit for nothing but Dogs. I know ſome Places, in which there hath not been a rot in the Memory of any of the Inhabitants; but there they change often, becauſe the Ground is very ſtony, and in two or three Years wears out their Mouths: And nothing preſerves Sheep better than change of Soil. Our common Husbandmen keep their ſmall Flocks at all adventure without much Care or Caution. But for larger Flocks our Shepherds of *Lemſteroer* and *Irchinfield* are moſt incomparably expert.

Whilſt this Letter is under my Hand, by a Conference with Mr *S.* concerning Orchards, I am aſſured, that upon a long Tryal (as in a way of conteſtation) it was found experimentally, that ſome Apples raiſed of Kernels did exceed the beſt that could be found of grafted Apples in delicacy of Taſte.

That

That he tried to meliorate the *Kentiſh* Codling, by a Graft of the ſame kind, and it proved worſe.

That a near Neighbour made a Hogſhead of Cyder of *Kentiſh* Codlings only: He taſted it this very Week. It had taſte far differing from all our other Cyder, not bad, nor very excellent. That it looks like Perry, of a wheyiſh Colour.

He alſo gave me at his own Houſe a moſt pleaſant Drink, which I thought to be Cyder, and preferr'd it before Red-ſtreak'd Cyder, which was of the beſt, and for tryal, brought out to me and others at the ſame time. This commended Drink was compounded of Crabs never hoarded, but ſhaken from the Tree, and immediately ground together with Perry of that luſhious kind, which at this time of the Year is always wont to be roapy. This Drink was not clear, but had ſome reſemblance of roapy Perry. But he aſſures us, that the Crab does by this Compoſition always preſerve the Perry from being roapy. If ſo (as of all Men I can beſt believe him, who will not break his word to ſave his Life) this is an excellent Art, at one time to make Crabs, which grow naturally in all wild, dry, and barren Soil, a rich Fruit; and by them alſo to make a rich Benefit of thoſe Pears, which in the language of another good Husband were called a cumberſome Weed.

He preſcribeth that the more luſhious the Pear be, the more Crabs be added to it. By the taſte in the Mill, you may fit it, generally more Pears than Crabs. He noteth that theſe Crabs were not of the foremention'd *Bromsbury* Crabs

Crabs, but common Crabs; of which common Crabs he advertiseth there are two sorts. The first soon ripe, and yellowish, and fit to be mingled with the Pears that are first ripe. And of this kind was the Cyder that he gave to us. The other is a more sullen Crab, green about the end of Autumn. This agrees with it's contemporary Pears. Or to make a kind of *Scythian* Wine, fit to quicken the Palate of a sturdy Hinde, they may be laid in Heaps, for a Months hoarding, and then ground by themselves, or with Winter Apples. We know how welcome to foreign Peasants, and also to our Seamen, a rough Vinegar or Verjuice would be, either to mingle with Pottage, or with water for Drink. We have not yet felt so much want in *England*, as were necessary to teach us the use of Crabs, or other general branches of Frugality. The *Bromsbury* Crab, so often mentioned, is far larger than either of the other sort, and in shape like an Apple.

Sir, 'Tis time I should now give you rest. In this you may see my hearty desires towards the Improvement and Welfare of our Native Country. If we must be hindered of Trade with *Spain*, I wish our *English* indignation would scorn to feed at their Tables, to drink of their Liquors, or otherwise to borrow or buy of them, or of any of their Confederates, as long as our Native Soil did supply us with Necessaries. I pray God to strengthen us all in a firm love to his holy Truth, and in a mutual love to each other, under the shelter of his everlasting Mercies.

Hereford May 13. 1656.

Your Servant in the Lord, *I. B.*

An Extract of Mr. Hartlib's *Letter dated* September 4. 1656.

He desires, that these Letters may be presented to publick view, for an Example to worthy Men in other Countrys to do the like in these, and other Parts of Husbandry. That the Latine Passages should be turned into the vernaculous Language, and many expressions altered into more plain and common *English*, that all vulgar capacities may understand them, *&c.*

The Answer.

1 That it is now too late to polish any Parts of those Letters with such accurateness, as becomes a Piece drest for severe Judgments. If it must flie abroad, it must go as it is, all Parts alike, in the free Garb of a natural simplicity; written with speed, and with more care of Truth, than of fit Words.

Instead of a Translation of *Collumella*'s Sentence, *pag.* 12 *lin.* 19. I would annex this short *English* gloss; that which is far fetcht, may have little familiarity with our Soil, and may a long time take it unkindly to be banisht from its Native Place.

I dare not adventure for an exact translation, having no other Edition but that of *Hieron*, *Commeline.* 1595, which is so full of Errours that I suspect every Line. It were an excellent work, if any Man would publish a well-corrected Copy of the four *Roman* Husbandmen, they being rare Monuments of Antiquity; the first, namely that of *Cato* the Censor, being almost 2000 Years old. Being now destitute of Libraries,

if

if I should undertake it, having no one old exemplar upon which I should frame my conjecture, at the best Success, I should shew more Wit than Honesty. For I hold it a most pernicious Presumption, to intrude our own Phansies instead of such great Authorities.

Page 25. *line* 23. The Latine may be untranslated, being but a rational inference, to authorize that which is there said in *English*.

Page 27. *line* 9. *To the World's End.* I use these Words in a vulgar Sense. For in very Truth, and well-grounded Theology, we have no reason to conceive it to be long now, before the World shall be changed or consumed by the last Fire.

Pag. 28. *line* 5. To explain this *per Quincuncem* to the dullest, we may add these *English* Words; as in a Diaper-Napkin, or in common Glass-Windows, which is the rhombular Figure.

I dare adventure to use no more than the first Letters of some Mens Names, least I have blame for my good meaning. As in this I have merited little, so I expect no better reward; yet you have very much obliged me ever to subscribe,

Yours unfeignedly
I. B.

To my very worthy Friend

FINIS.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM